



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/966,497	09/28/2001	Harry S. Sowden	MCP-294	5321

27777 7590 07/01/2004
PHILIP S. JOHNSON
JOHNSON & JOHNSON
ONE JOHNSON & JOHNSON PLAZA
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08933-7003

EXAMINER

ORTIZ, ANGELA Y

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1732

DATE MAILED: 07/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/966,497

Applicant(s)

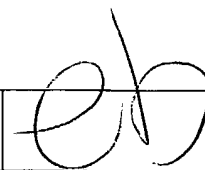
SOWDEN ET AL.

Examiner

Angela Ortiz

Art Unit

1732



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 April 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 and 137 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 and 137 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1, 6-10, 137 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dong et al., USP 5,830,502 for the reasons cited in the previous office action.

The cited reference teaches the claimed process of manufacturing an injection molded dosage form. The detailed method steps include providing a flowable material by first preparing a composition for injection molding, forming the composition into pellets and loading the pellets into an injection molding machine. The injection molding machine conventionally includes a mold cavity, injection nozzle, and heating and cooling means. The composition for the dosage form may comprise a medicament. The molding machine heats the pellets to produce a flowable material, and the material is injected into a mold cavity until the mold is filled, and the composition is solidified into the shape of the cavity. Please see the abstract, col. 3, lines 45-65; col. 4, lines 3-30; col. 5, line 3, col. 6, lines 15-20, 35; col. 7, line 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Art Unit: 1732

Claims 1, 2-5, 11-13, 21, 137 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dong et al., USP 5,830,502 for the reasons cited in the previous office action.

The cited reference substantially teaches the basic claimed process of manufacturing an injection molded dosage form. The detailed method steps include providing a flowable material by first preparing a composition for injection molding, forming the composition into pellets and loading the pellets into an injection molding machine. The injection molding machine conventionally includes a mold cavity, injection nozzle, and heating and cooling means. The composition for the dosage form may comprise a medicament. The molding machine heats the pellets to produce a flowable material, and the material is injected into a mold cavity until the mold is filled, and the composition is solidified into the shape of the cavity. Please see the abstract, col. 3, lines 45-65; col. 4, lines 3-30; col. 5, line 3, col. 6, lines 15-20, 35; col. 7, line 1.

The cited reference does not teach cooling in the hardening step as claimed.

Note that the hot liquid of the melted pellets is around 100°C, and is injected into a 75°C mold cavity and by injecting hot material into a cooler mold, cooling is being performed. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the step of cooling during hardening to solidify the melted material.

With respect to claims 2-5, 11, note that the heating and cooling performed includes conventional means; it would have been obvious to further include the conventional means claimed for achieving the desired temperature effect.

Art Unit: 1732

With respect to claims 12-13, see col. 4, lines 18-25; col. 2, lines 35-65, wherein a defect free product is a long-standing object in the art of making dosage forms.

Claims 14-20, 22, 137 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dong et al., USP 5,830,502 in view of Voss, USP 6,177,125 for the reasons cited in the previous office action.

The cited primary reference substantially teaches the basic claimed process of manufacturing an injection molded dosage form. The detailed method steps include providing a flowable material by first preparing a composition for injection molding, forming the composition into pellets and loading the pellets into an injection molding machine. The injection molding machine conventionally includes a mold cavity, injection nozzle, and heating and cooling means. The composition for the dosage form may comprise a medicament. The molding machine heats the pellets to produce a flowable material, and the material is injected into a mold cavity until the mold is filled, and the composition is solidified into the shape of the cavity. Please see the abstract, col. 3, lines 45-65; col. 4, lines 3-30; col. 5, line 3, col. 6, lines 15-20, 35; col. 7, line 1.

The cited primary reference does not teach the claimed step of placing an insert in the mold cavity prior to injecting.

The added reference teaches as conventional a method of making coated tablets that comprise a core, the method further including placing the core or insert in the mold cavity prior to complete molding of the tablet. The detailed steps include providing a coating composition in granulate form, adding a core to the granules and molding the

Art Unit: 1732

composition into tablet form. One embodiment forms the process in a single step, while additional embodiments partially fill the mold, place the core within the mold and then completely fill the mold to form a coated tablet. Note that the core can be injected. See claims 1-21, col. 1, lines 48-57.

It would to add an insert prior to complete molding of the dosage form, in view of the added reference, when performing the process set forth in the primary reference, for forming an encapsulated tablet. Note that the primary reference prefers a liquid center fill; it would have been obvious to use a non-liquid fill in view of the added reference, for forming an encapsulated tablet in a single process step.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed April 7, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that there is no suggestion in the Dong reference for the composition to contain a medicament.

Applicant is directed to col. 5, lines 63-67 and col. 6, lines 15-20 of the applied Dong reference. Note that as the claim reads, this teaching is sufficient to read on at least claim 1 as currently presented.

Applicant further argues that none of the applied references teach a gelatin-like material.

Art Unit: 1732

Note that the Dong reference discloses as conventional the use of gelatin material in the push composition at col. 7, line 30.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela Ortiz whose telephone number is 571-272-1206. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 9:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Colaianni can be reached on 571-272-1196. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 1732

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Angela Ortiz
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1732

ao